

Bell companies operate an "essential facility", and should have to accommodate other ISP firms that wish to purchase access from them. What can be lost at the regulatory level, is the fact that the majority of new job creation in this country occurs in small businesses. These small businesses require the ability to have access to the 'last mile' in order to gain customers. Furthermore, the Bell companies took no initiative to roll out broadband until the market was defined by small businesses. Equitable access to the 'last mile' is critical to the development of broadband networks.